

Morning Flags - February 21st

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Date: Mon, 21 Feb 2022 14:25:12 +0000

Good morning sir,

Here are the issues we're tracking this AM. We received no questions on the morning call.

1. Alberta Lawsuit (Justice lead)

<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ps-sp/en/2022/02/21/243042407>

- Over the weekend, Premier Kenney announced that he is planning to sue the federal government over its use of the Emergencies Act, calling it "unnecessary and disproportionate."
- He pointed to the recent removal of the Coutts demonstrators as proof that the situation was within the capacities of provincial law enforcement to respond.
- A letter from Alberta to the federal government also started circulating over the weekend.
- In it, Minister Ric McIver asked Ministers Mendicino and Blair for federal help removing the 140+ vehicles blocking the Coutts border crossing.
- When asked for comment, the Alberta government said that they had been looking for federal resources, and that "The use of the Emergencies Act was never something that Alberta asked for, or required."

Emergency Prep lines (internal office use only)

- From the very outset, our government has been focused on ensuring law enforcement has the support it needs from all partners to respond to this unlawful activity.
- We heard clearly from several jurisdictions that in the face of these unprecedented events, federal assistance was needed to bring the situation to an end.
- As groups like the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police have said, the temporary authorities granted to police under the Emergencies Act have been essential to their response.
- These measures under the Act are temporary, subject to extensive Parliamentary oversight, and will only be in place only for as long as they are required.

2. Ottawa - Emergencies Act

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/191-arrests-later-ottawa-police-remove-remaining-freedom-convoy-vehicles-1.5788869>

<https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/we-will-actively-look-to-identify-you-ottawa-police-chief-warns-departed-protesters>

- Police conducted extensive operations in Ottawa over the weekend to clear the ongoing blockades.

- Wellington and the surrounding streets are now largely cleared of vehicles and demonstrators.
- 191 people were arrested, of which 107 have been charged so far, and 76 vehicles have been towed.
- A total of 389 charges have been laid so far, including mischief, obstruction, and assault of a police officer.
- OPS also tweeted a warning over the weekend to protest attendees: "If you are involved in this protest, we will actively look to identify you and follow up with financial sanctions and criminal charges."
- Interim Chief Bell further reiterated at yesterday's press conference that police will continue to investigate for "months to come" and that they "will hold people accountable for taking our streets over."

Emergencies Act – Duration

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/the-job-s-not-yet-done-blair-says-risk-that-prompted-emergencies-act-still-exists-1.5788923>

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8634489/emergencies-act-use-freedom-convoy-bill-blair-west-block/>

- Notable coverage of your Sunday AM media appearances, particularly your comments that our government will continue with the Act's powers "as long as they are required" to bring this situation to an end.
- Coverage of both your CTV and Global appearances further highlighted your comments that (again in the context of Sunday) "the job is not yet done" and that the threat that required these measures "still exists".
- The vote on the Emergencies Act is expected tonight at approximately 8PM, after debate ran through the weekend.
- If the vote fails, the provisions under the Emergencies Act will be immediately revoked. If passed, they will remain in place for up to 30 days.

3. Quebec Convoy

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/quebec/dozens-of-protesters-join-quebec-city-trucker-convoy-with-more-on-the-way>

<https://www.lapresse.ca/actualites/regional/2022-02-20/opposition-aux-mesures-sanitaires/des-centaines-de-manifestants-a-quebec-4-arrestations-et-167-constats.php>

- Quebec City had a demonstration of its own over the weekend in front of the provincial legislature.
- This is the second weekend in a row that these demonstrations have happened.
- Trucks, tractors, and semis parked in front of the National Assembly and were allowed to blow their horns during two blocks of time, per a deal negotiated with police.
- Demonstrators reportedly largely followed the rules, parking their vehicles in designated areas.
- However organizers made it clear over the weekend they do not intend to give up until the Legault government accedes to their demands.
- Organizer Bernard Gauthier said to a crowd that they have been passive and even celebratory so far, as requested, but "We expect the government to return the favour. We will see how they react and we also will react if it doesn't work. I know that you will all be there."
- Police made 4 arrests and issued 167 tickets in connection to the event at last count.

Irrelevant

